

## Home Reading.

## The Undiscovered Country.

Could we but know  
The land that ends our dark uncertain travel,  
Where the shadows of the future dwell,  
Ah! if beyond the spirit's inmost veil  
Aught of that country could we surely know,  
Who would not go?

Might we but hear  
The hovering angels' high melodious chorus,  
Or catch, betimes, with wistful eyes and clear  
The radiant vision of the realm before us,  
With one eye-moment given to see and hear,  
Ah, who would fear?

We're quite sure  
To find the peerless friend who left us lonely,  
Or there, by some celestial stream as pure,  
To gaze in eyes that have been loveliest only,  
This weary mortal coil, we're quite sure,  
Who would endure?

—Edmund Clarence Stedman.

## The Jordan Canal.

A new interest is aroused in the scheme of turning the Jordan valley into an inland sea by the letter of Gen. Gordon and the accompanying diagram published in the *Herald* this morning. The proposed route of the canal is from Haifa, on the Gulf of Acre to a point near Lake Huleh, latter known to Bible students as Lake Merom. The surface of which is about on the level of the sea. From that point the Jordan descends very rapidly. At the Lake of Tiberias it is between 600 and 700 feet below the level of the sea, and at its mouth in the Dead Sea, it is 1,300 feet below. It is evident, therefore, that all the bottom land of the Jordan valley would be flooded and some of it to a great depth, by the proposed canal. At the south end of the Dead Sea, the Valley of Akabah rises gradually above sea-level; but between the Red Sea at El Akabah and the Dead Sea, comparatively little digging would be required. A canal forty miles long would be sufficient to connect the two. Palestine and the Sinai peninsula would then be cut off from the rest of Asia Minor, and the whole region would become a sort of neutral ground, with possibly an international protectorate over it.

The advantages of the proposed route are its sufficiency for the purposes of trade and its cheapness. It would be so broad that no difficulty would be found in passing through as many vessels as desired to go; and its estimated cost of construction and maintenance is so small that tolls would not need to be more than a small fraction of these now levied at Suez.

The main objection to the plan has come from those who maintain that it will destroy many places that have sacred associations. To this the reply is made that it will be a fulfillment of prophecy in various ways. Quite a controversy has arisen on this point, which is queer enough in these days. If prophecy is to be fulfilled, it makes no difference what is done about the Jordan Canal. Prophecy is a general thing, is not fulfilled by man who go to work deliberately for that purpose, neither is prophecy falsified by the action of a commercial company in making a canal.

## A Yellowstone Inn.

Marshall's is a queer place. Going south one is compelled to stop there for a night—going north it is the only lodging place I have come both. But if my horse is spared to come here again, I will bring some bread and cheese in my pocket and sleep on the brink of a geyser rather than submit to the intolerable discomfort of Mr. Marshall's hostelry. Perhaps he is not to blame, for he is a poor scatter without any title to the land upon which the house is built, and the dread of being ejected curbs any enterprise there may be in him; but when I tell you that the house has only four rooms, over which is a cockloft, and that he lodges forty gentlemen and ladies every night, and feels perhaps 150, and that he and his wife and a Chinaman do the entire work of the household, you can form some idea of the barbaric scramble for food, the disgusting huddling together of dusty travelers of both sexes at night, and the utter absence of all efforts to give the place even an appearance of cleanliness. Tobacco smoke and juice, the curses of teamsters, and the snoring in your contiguous bed-fellow make you wish for dawn more earnestly than Wellington ever invoked the night. Within two miles of Marshall's is the "Queen's Laundry," a pool of warm water deposit of the natural bath-tub. Here I had the most refreshing bath of my life. Its cleansing properties are wonderful. No soap is needed. How thoughtful of Nature to have put it just here. She knew Marshall was coming.—*Cor. Phila. Press.*

## Making Teeth.

The manufacture of teeth is a large industry. There are now twelve manufacturing plants of artificial teeth, that produce every year ten million teeth, or one to every five persons in the United States. Half this number is made by one firm, founded in 1844. The total sales of these teeth amount to one million dollars annually. The materials used are feldspar, wood and rock crystal. The coloring is platinum, titanium and gold. The feldspar and crystal are subjected to red heat and then thrown into cold water, so that they are ground in water until fine enough to float. Combined with the heat, they are subjected to intense fire, so that in moulds of brass, which are heated, each moulding one half of the teeth.

The process is delicate and has many interesting details. In the earlier history of the art, dentists carved the teeth which their customers demanded, and apprentices were often made useful in that way. The amount of gold used annually in filling teeth is five hundred thousand dollars. Lead was used from 1178 to 833. There are dentists in New York who give, or say they give, diamond fillings, and in Paris they advertise to use diamond pivots and enamel plugs. The filling of teeth is aided greatly by labor saving machinery and cunningly wrought tools. This country makes dental instruments for all parts of the world where dentistry is known. An ordinary outfit of instruments costs five hundred dollars.

## How Playing Cards are Made.

The past board is made in sheets large enough for fifty-four cards. The printing is done in six impressions—two colors on the back and four for the face. The pattern for the back is generally an interlocking check in green and yellow. When printed the cards are reversed and the red plate put on. This prints the ace and diamonds, the king's scabbard, and nose, Jack's hat and mantle, and several portions of the queen's dress.

The blue and yellow colors follow in succession, both being used mainly in giving additional luster to the court costumes. Then the black plate finishes. It is stated that two firms have recently got in machinery which enables them to print all colors with one impression, thereby saving five-sixths of the printing labor. When the cards are printed they are cut into long strips, each strip showing six cards placed lengthways. Then the cutting machine clips them out with rounded corners ready for the packer. At this stage only half the work is done. The sorting, counting, and folding require as many hands to perform as do the printing and clipping. The work is done mainly by girls.

## Motions of Base Ball Pitchers.

It is amusing, says an exchange, to watch the motions of base ball pitchers, especially by one who is a novice in base ball matters. An expert pitcher is never in a hurry unless some fellow is stealing bases and then he fairly boils over with activity. But when things settle down a little and a couple of fellows are on bases, he shows up the little practical points in a pitcher. The ball is rolled to him very carefully, and he picks it up. He stands with his back to one of the runners, and with a cunning inclination of the head he looks over his shoulder at the fellow on the first base, and he cocks the other eye on the fellow at the second base. He then looks at the ball and commences to count the stitches in one of the seams. Then he suddenly looks up to see if it is cloudy. Then he faces to the left and turns suddenly back again, and seizes the fellows on the bases by a threatened movement to throw the ball at them. The fellows thinking he is in earnest fall down in the dirt, scramble up, and lay tight hold of bag of sand at the bases, as if the bags could save them. The pitcher grins at the fellows and then turns around again. He looks at his ball to see if it has suffered any since he last looked at it. Then he looks slyly at the fellow on first base and cocks his eye again on the fellow at second. Then he draws back his arm. Then he rubs the ball on his hip to clean off the dust, so it won't make a mark on the fellow at the bat when it hits him below the ear. Then he swings himself, cranes his neck and lunges forward his arm with a mighty jerk. The ball speeds like lightning toward the three fellows at the home plate. The fellow at the bat twists himself into the shape of the letter S so that the ball won't hit him. The fellow with gloves on pokes his fingers out in the way of the ball, and then jerks them back again, wringing his hand as if he had got something nasty on it. The fellow behind, whose duty it was to call "one ball," "foul," "strike," and such things, jumps to one side, while the ball speeds on its way, bringing up with a tremendous bang against the reporters' stand, while the fellows on first and second bases make safe runs.

## A New Electrical Exhibit.

One of the most interesting exhibits at the Vienna Electrical Exhibition is Gentili's glossograph, a little instrument by which speech is automatically reproduced as soon as it is uttered. A small apparatus is placed in the mouth of the speaker—in contact with the roof of his mouth, his tongue, and lips—and on being connected with an electro-magnetic registering apparatus, the sounds are committed to paper. It is constructed in such a manner as not to cause any inconvenience to the speaker; neither is it necessary that the voice should be raised, as it reproduces a whisper as exactly as a shout; the only condition is a correct and distinct articulation. According to the inventor's calculation, it will be possible to write four or five times as fast by means of the glossograph as has hitherto been possible even by the quickest writer. At first sight it appears as if this invention was but an improvement upon Edison's phonograph; it is, however, of a much older date. It rests, unlike the former, on an acoustic principle, and does not reproduce the sounds in a microscopical form. The chief obstacle to the introduction of the glossograph will be the difficulty in deciphering the characters; but it is not impossible that with the help of a second automatic apparatus the characters produced by the glossograph may be translated into our common type-writing. The orthography would doubtless appear strange, but in these days of phonetic spelling this might not long be a hindrance.—*Pull Mall Gazette*

"PARADISE LOST" brought John Milton only a paltry five pounds—about twenty-five dollars of our money. Wordsworth once told Matthew Arnold that for many years his poetry had never brought him in enough to buy his shoe-strings. "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which has a world-wide fame, and has been translated into many languages went begging from publisher to publisher, before one recognized its great merit. Hawthorne for twenty years continued to be, to use his own words, "the obscurest man of letters in America." "There is not much market for my wares," he said at another time. But he ranks today among the American classics. Thoreau was another example. A thousand copies of his "A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers" was struck off by his publisher. After a year or so the author received word that his work would not sell, and that seven hundred and six copies were occupying cellar-room wanted for other use. Accordingly, they were transported from Boston to Concord. Thoreau gave them a kindly though sorrowful welcome. He laid them on his back and carried them, "up two flights of stairs to place similar to that to which they traced their origin." With a sort of grim humor he said: "I have now a library of nearly nine hundred volumes, over seven hundred of which I wrote myself."

We know now why the Concord School of Philosophy disbanded. It could not compete with the *Century*, which in the July number unloaded the following:

Art is the joyous externalizing of inwardness.  
Beauty is the joyful internalization of outwardness.  
Poetry is the hampered soul leaping at verity.  
Truth is the so-ness of the as-it-were.  
Right is the awful yes-ness of the over-soul meditating on the how-ness of the thing.

Society is the heterogeneous, buying peace with homogeneity.  
A Thing is simply an is-ness. Matter is is-ness possessed of somewhat mess. Mind is an-ness.  
Philosophy is the mind trying to find out its own little game. Exchange.

JACK, the printer's devil, has been sur-named Fetish. Definition of fetich—a wooden idol. Jack is wooden, also idle.

## Ballots.

There was a lady in Baltimore  
Who sneezed as she never had sneezed before;  
She sneezed so loud and she sneezed so long,  
That her breath was weak and her sneeze was strong.

And all of a sudden, as one might say,  
She blew the spark of her life away.  
We have heard of people carried off  
By an able-bodied sort of a cough;  
But it beats our time by many degrees  
To see a person knocked out by a sneeze.

John Cominodo, of somewhere in New Jersey, has been nominated to office; we ought to know him well, for there are a good many common odes, relatives of his as we should suppose, who have climbed the golden basket in our own time.

Cape Cod wants a canal; we could send her the Morris and Essex as third-class matter by mail, if it would be any advantage to her.

The *Boston Transcript* says it don't care an all whether the King of Siam has long nails or not. Well, perhaps it is better to do your swearing in that shape; but really, now, the intention ought to count for something.

One piece of political advice which we have lately seen, is to the effect that a good voter ought to look up his polling-place at night. This is just as sensible as they make em. Don't you know a polling-place is apt to get so high that nobody can tell how high it is, until he takes the pains to look it up. Every straight-backed voter, therefore, is a man whose curvilinear spine has been corrected by looking up his polling-place. But why should he look up his polling-place at night? Why, to be sure, because the other census will then help him out. See? Smile? Well, we should, and we will.

"Heh! a woman's righter?" said old man Grouty. "What kind of a writer is that sort of a poet, or one of them blooming women? I don't appear to size it somehow. What's she writin' about? Ain't there enough o' fools a-scribblin' nowadays 'bout these 'uns a-bitchin' on?" It was explained to the old gentleman that these were women who were trying to secure what they considered their rights, but he only remarked that he wished to thunder that shoes was made like they was in the good old times, when they was both rights, and big enough for anybody.

"Banned your celery yet?" said Y to Z, the other day. "Course not," said Z to Y. "There's not enough of it to bank." "That's because you check it too much," said Y. "I know it is," said poor Z. "Better retrench it and turn it in." "Plague on it!" said Z. "I'd like most precious well to see you try it on, on what I get." And he went away mad.

They talk in some quarters about the present "crop" of lieutenant-governors. This makes us think that the biggest part of the lieutenant-governors have probably "served their time" better than they will serve their country. Some of them, perhaps, had a very close shave to get in.

Stuck up—the circus poster.

"A colored child, left at home alone in Florida, was killed by ants."

And the princes in the Tower by an uncle.

"The manufacture of soap has placed Colgate and B. T. Babbitt among the millionaires."

"Let's, one they have clean hands (to say nothing of pure hearts)."

It is presumed that election bets are usually made for hats, because the mental strain incident to this important time enlarges the brain, so the old hat is apt to be too small.

"A muf is about the only thing that will hold a girl's hand without squeezing it."—*Bergen Co. Herald*

And some of them are not to be trusted. A fellow may be a "muf" and yet "a man for a' that."

"Why is it that if a man loses his night key he never discovers the fact until he arrives home after every one has gone to bed, and wants to open the door?"—*Puck*

The author of the above must belong to an amiable family. It isn't every one who, after going to bed, is so willing to open the door.

"A lot of women voted in Binghamton the other day, and when their tickets were handed them they wanted to take them home and run a ham around the edges, so they wouldn't ravel out. A woman knows lots about the ballot."—*Ex.*

They had probably heard of men selling theirs at five dollars apiece, and naturally wished to preserve anything so valuable.

A Swiss chemist, Floegel, found in examining the residue from the evaporation of freshly fallen snow, living infusoria and algae, bacilli and micrococci, mites, diatoms, spores of fungi in immense numbers, also fibres of wood, mouse hairs, pieces of butterfly wings, skins of the larvae of insects, cotton fibres, pieces of grass, epidermis, pollen grains, rye and potato flour, grains of quartz, minute pieces of roofing tiles, with bits of iron and coal. But poets will, nevertheless, continue to use snow as a symbol of absolute purity.

MARRIED.

JACOB-BROWN—At the residence of the bride's parents, Bloomfield, N. J., September 18, 1883, by the Rev. Russell Todd, Mary Davis Brown to Robert B. Jacobs, of New York. No cards.

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Hind Quarter Lamb.....12c. " " 18c. " 1/2

" Mutton.....10c. " " 15c. " 1/2

Fore " Lamb.....10c. " " 12c. " 1/2

" Mutton.....10c. " " 12c. " 1/2

Lamb or Mutton Chops.....15 to 18c. " " 15c. per lb.

Stew Lamb or Mutton.....8 to 10c. " " 12c. per lb.

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